In my mind's eye, I imagine Green at ACT corporate headquarters, somewhere in the marketing department, stroking his beard and peering through a one-way window into a room in which a scientifically selected focus group of non-bioethicist citizens have been assembled to test-market ''ovasome,'' ''activated egg,'' ''nuclear transfer-derived blastocyst,'' and other freshly minted euphemisms.

But setting that image aside, Green's statement to the AP has me seriously confused. He said that the anticipated cloned entities are ''not embryos'' because (1) ''they are not the result of fertilization,'' and (2) ''there is no intent to implant these in women.''

Let's consider the ''intent'' criteria first. Green seems to suggest that a living and developing embryonic being, who is genetically a member of the species homo sapiens, can somehow be transformed into something else on the basis of the ''intent'' of those who conceived him or her. This seems more akin to magical thinking than to science.

If ''intent'' is what determines the clone's intrinsic nature, then what if a human clone is created by someone who actually does have ''intent'' to implant him or her in a womb? In that case, would Green consider that particular clone to be a ''embryo'' from the beginning? If so, an ACT scientist hypothetically could create two cloned individuals at the same time, with intent to destroy one and intent to implant the other, but only the latter would be a ''human embryo'' in Green's eyes.

Or—since ''intent'' may be uncertain, or could change—does the magical transformation into an ''embryo'' occur if and when the embryonic entity actually is implanted in a womb?

It seems, however, that Green may not regard the clone to be a human embryo even after implantation in a womb, because the in-utero clone—although he or she would appear to the layman to be an unborn human child—would still bear the burden of not being ''the result of fertilization.'' Perhaps Green would prefer to refer to such an unborn-baby-like entity as an ''extrapolated activated egg.''

But what if that clone is actually carried to term and born? Would Green then consider him or her to be a ''human being''? Could be, but I fear that the professor's logic might lead him to perceive a need for a new term for any baby-like entities and grown-up-people-like entities who were not ''the result of fertilization.''

How about calling them ''activites'' (pronounced ''AC-tiv-ites'')? That would link ''activated egg'' with ''vita,'' which is Latin for ''life,'' and it even smuggles in the ACT corporate acronym, I think I'm getting the hang of this.

Green is a liberal-minded fellow, so I'll bet he would allow such activated human-like entities to vote, obtain Ph.D.s, and maybe even be awarded tenure. But perhaps they would be required to sign their letters ''Ph.D. (act.),'' so that they would not be confused with other tenured entities, such as Professor Green, who are fully fertilized.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, Congress, I hope, will soon ban the drilling for oil in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. In the very same week, are we really ready to license industry so it can proceed with the manufacture of cloned human embryos? Do human embryos count less than the pristine wilderness of Alaska, or do they at least have a common claim to protection under law from exploitation and destruction?

We ban the hunting of bald eagles. Communities ban open-air burning. We have banned chlorofluorocarbons. We ban PCBs. Congress voted to ban drilling in the Great Lakes. A ban on human cloning is a transcendent issue which requires no less vigilance.

The question remains, are we ready to stand up to the corporations, which have their eye on human embryos as the next natural resource to exploit? I believe that we are up to this challenge. I know my colleagues believe that government has to draw a line; that the unfettered marketplace has neither morals nor responsibility nor accountability when it comes to cloning of human embryos; and that at this moment, we have an opportunity for the future of this country and for the destiny of our society to take a strong stand to protect human dignity and human uniqueness by banning embryonic human cloning.

I say support the Weldon amendment, the Weldon bill.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Committee for yielding time to me. I certainly commend him on his command of the issues. I think all those years on the Committee on Science have served him well.

This is a complicated issue; but to distill it down to its simplest essence, we have two choices before us: the underlying bill, introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), and I and others, which bans the creation of human embryos, either for the purpose of trying to produce a child or for destructive research purposes; or the approach being proposed under this substitute, which is to essentially sanction and register those people who want to create embryos for research purposes, embryos that will ultimately be destroyed.

I would challenge everyone on the critical question of does the slippery slope exist. We had a debate in this body several years ago on the issue of funding embryonic stem cell research at the NIH. Many people rose to speak in support of funding embryonic stem cell research. They said some interesting things.

Here is a quote from our colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI): ''Let me say that I agree with our colleagues who say that we should not be involved in the creation of embryos for research. I completely agree with my colleagues on that score.''

Here is another quote from the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY): ''We can all be assured that the research at the National Institutes of Health will be conducted with the highest level of integrity. No embryos will be created for research purposes.''

Here is a quote from the gentlewoman from Connecticut, Mrs. JOHNSON: ''Lifting this ban would not allow the creation of human embryos solely for research purposes.''

I have other quotes. Yet, that is where we are today. We are having a debate on whether we should now create human embryos for research purposes.

We have had a lot of discussion about whether or not these embryos are alive, whether they have a soul. The biological fact is, and I say this as a scientist and as a physician, that they are indistinguishable from a human embryo that has been created by sexual fertilization. Indeed, if we look at all the prominent researchers in this area, they say that it has the full potential to develop into a human being.

I think, and rightly so, the majority of Americans, and we have seen the numbers, they have been put up here for everyone to see on display charts, about 86 percent of Americans say, We do not want to take that step. It is one thing to talk about stem cell research using embryos that are slated for destruction. It is a whole separate issue to say, we are going to now sanction an industry that creates human embryos.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me. I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) for the work they have done on this amendment, which I rise in support of.

Let me say why, Mr. Speaker. For years, U.S. physicians, researchers, and scientists have searched for cures to the diseases that have afflicted so many of our families and our friends, and friends of our friends. These physicians, these scientists, and these researchers in my view are the real, true American heroes of our era.

As we stand on the brink of finding the cures to diseases that have plagued so many, so many millions of Americans, unfortunately, the Congress today in my view is on the brink of prohibiting this critical research.

As we debate this bill, scientists in my congressional district in the heart of Silicon Valley are using one method of research, therapeutic cloning, to make critical breakthroughs that could lead to cures for Alzheimer's, for Parkinson's, even for spinal cord injury. Without therapeutic cloning, there is no way to move stem cell therapies from the lab to the doctor's office. Stem cell research, as most Americans know, is not about destroying lives, but about saving them.

My friends on the other side of this issue keep talking about embryos, embryos, embryos, embryos. Well, if one is embryocentric, this is not the bill. Neither is the Stupak-Weldon approach about that. The only reason they used the word ''embryos'' is to try to do an